

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Project Direct (\$1,494,575 grant)

Project DIRECT (Direct Intervention for Reentry through Employment, Counseling, and Treatment) combines an in-custody Therapeutic Community and individualized transition planning leading to the provision of post-custody Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for mentally ill offenders with histories of low level domestic violence and criminal threats.

The Therapeutic Community (TC) is a dedicated 50-bed mental health unit, and the county anticipates that the project will serve 500 inmates in this component, which is comprised of an in-depth mental health and needs assessment, individualized treatment and an array of structured activities (e.g., daily full-time classes in life skills, anger management, literacy, job readiness, and creative arts). A multi-disciplinary treatment team comprised of instructional and custody staff, an assigned probation officer, mental health professionals, a job specialist and other service providers will work with offenders while they are in custody and engage and prepare them for transition to the post-custody phase of the project.

Of the 500 offenders expected to receive TC services, 40 to 50 will receive ACT upon their release including tracking their performance in the community. Services will include mental health treatment and counseling (integrated treatment for dually diagnosed individuals), medication education and support, vocational planning and job placement, behavioral management support groups, peer to peer support groups, and assistance in securing housing, transportation and disability benefits. The remaining 450 inmates, upon their release from the TC, will be linked to other community-based services through the jail-based linkage program.

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